

# WØMTL - **Mark Twain Land Area News** - WØKEM

## AUGUST, 2008

### HARC OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT: HOWARD BARNES, KØDFW**

**V-PRES: J.D. SINCLAIR, WØAJD**

**SECRETARY: FRED MILLER, KBØWIL**

**TREASURER: TONY GILLILAND, WØPGL**

**TRUSTEE: CLIFF AHRENS, KØCA**

**EDITOR: BONNIE SINCLAIR, WBØWAP**

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**NOTE: No Meeting in August, due to having picnic August 2, see below for details.**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday  
SEP. 10, 2008 at 7:30 PM**

Regular Meetings are held at Beth Haven Nursing Home, 2500 Pleasant St., Hannibal, Mo. Enter at the main entrance; turn left through the lounge area to the elevator. Take the elevator down to the first floor, and go to your right/left around the corner, down the hall to the cafeteria.

### **FCC VE TEST DATES FOR YEAR OF 2008 Hannibal, MO ARC 2008 Exam Dates**

Wednesday, October 8, 2008 - 8:30 p.m.

They will take place at 8:30 PM after the regular scheduled HARC meeting. The exam session will be at the Beth Haven Nursing Home, in the Cafeteria on the 1st (lower) Floor, 2500 Pleasant St., Hannibal, MO. Registration is required at least 72 hours before the exam session by contacting the team liaison, Fred Miller- KBØWIL at [kb0wil@arrl.net](mailto:kb0wil@arrl.net) or 573-221-2429.

The 2008 test fee will be \$14.00. It goes to ARRL/VEC. Bring a photo ID (or two non-photo ID's); if currently licensed, bring the original and a photocopy of your valid FCC license; and if you are claiming credit for successful completion of an

exam, bring the original and photocopy of any applicable CSCE's.

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### **HANNIBAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MINUTES**



**By Fred Miller, KBØWIL**

Date: July 9th, 2008

Location: Beth Haven Nursing Home 2500 Pleasant St. Hannibal Mo 63401

Meeting called to order by: Howie-KØDFW

Approval of minutes in the newsletter:

Motion to approve: Mark-NØZOF

Seconded BY: ANN-KB9BAL

### **REPEATER REPORT:**

Tony-WØPGL & Fred-KBØWIL

The 146.625 controller was hit by a lightning surge on June 24<sup>th</sup>, and Fred-KBØWIL sent it in for repair to Arcom. The 625 repeater is back in service on Friday July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008. We still have the occasional cracking noise, when we have windy conditions. So, we still need to plan on having a tower climber check out the antenna in the near future. We are also experiencing one or more repeaters, that are

coming in on 625 when the band conditions are open, and breaking the squelch. It is rather annoying, and the only way I know to help alleviate it would be to install a sub-audible tone. The 146.880 machine is still operating just fine, with no problems. Mark-NØZOF suggested that the club look into purchasing another controller for a back up when the 625 controller goes down. We need to do some research and see what we can come up with, at a reasonable cost for the club.

### **Field Day 2008: WØKEM Final Report**

The club had a total of 4008 points for our Field Day score. This includes all the bonus points, and this is a very respectable final count. If you didn't make it to Field Day this year, you missed out on a lot of fun, and very good food and snacks.

**Note:** Larry-WB2UFO donated to the club a Linksys router and (3) Ethernet cards to use in our laptop computers, for Field Day next year. Thank you Larry, for this great donation, the club appreciates it.

### **HARC Barbeque: August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 (Saturday)**

We are going to have our annual club barbeque in Huckleberry Park Pavilion, on Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Starting time is 5:00PM.** Everyone is to bring a carry in dish of some sort, desserts, cakes, cookies, breads, salads, etc. The club will supply the Iced Tea, pork chops, hamburgers, hot dogs and buns. The barbeque is for club members and their guests only.

**\* Special Note:** August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (Sunday) Carol-WA9EFV and Nancy his XYL are going to have there world famous get together at the Redneck Retreat near Barry Illinois. Lunch starts approximately at High Noon. Confederates and Rednecks are most welcome, he even accepts Yankees. Contact Carol-WA9EFV if you need more information, of course if you really want a good answer, you better ask Nancy. Carol is regarded as the Genius of Redneck Retreat, if you don't believe it, just ask him and he will tell you.

### **KØS SPECIAL EVENT STATION:**

August 21<sup>st</sup>- August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Contact J.D.-WØAJD if you wish to operate on the WW2 LST 325 Memorial Ship that is going to be docked here in Hannibal. We need CW and also SSB operators. J.D. is going to set up a schedule with all the operators names, because we will be limited to only one CW and one SSB operator in the radio control room at the same time. Note: The ship

is going to be on the air, on its way over to Hannibal. Probably on 80 meters, so keep your ears open.

### **FLOOD WATCH ALERT: 2008 ( RED CROSS )\***

The 146.880 machine was used extensively during the high river levels , to carry out Communications from Quincy II, to talk with Hull, New Canton and Pleasant Hill, Illinois. The 88 machine worked flawlessly.

### **HARC AUCTION:**

Howie-KØDFW as the head auctioneer , auctioned off some of the items that Lew-K4VX donated to the club. We auctioned the 2008-2209 repeater directory on CD, and ( 2) repeater directory books. Thank you very much Lew for all the items you have donated recently to the club.

### **NEW HARC MEMBER:**

Cork-KNØE rejoined the HARC tonight, thanks Cork for rejoining our club.

### **50/50 WON BY:**

J.D.WØAJD won the 50/50 and he donated it back to the club, thanks J.D., the club appreciates it.

### **VE TESTING:**

We had VE testing tonight , and several applicants attended to take the tests. Good luck with the exams.

Number of members present: 17

Number of guests: 8

Total in attendance: 25

Motion to adjourn meeting:

Motion made by: Mark-NØZOF

Seconded by: Cork-KNØE

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#### **TREASURERS REPORT:** Tony-WØPGL

Cash-\$787.56

CD-\$1,244.99

Total-\$2,032.55

Motion to approve: Cliff-KØCA

Seconded by: Ryan-WØRLR

#### **UPCOMING CLOSE BY HAMFESTS**

**St. Charles Hamfest:** August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 (Sunday)

**Quincy Hamfest:** August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 (Saturday)

Please plan on attending the hamfest in Quincy Illinois. It is a nice little event and they need our support.

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**NOTE: No Meeting in August,  
due to having picnic August 2,  
2008, at Huckleberry Park  
5:00 PM  
Members & Guests**



#### **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK AUGUST 2008 BY HOWARD BARNES K0DFW**

As I sit here writing this article, we are under severe thunderstorm warnings and it is raining very heavily, and looks like it is setting in for the night. Man, I tell you this has been one wet and wild summer starting out with a cold and wet spring, and now the weather seems to be going into the summer pattern with hot and humid days and nights with severe storms with mother nature letting off her steam. I have found leaks that I have never knew that we have had around here and I have been hearing about a lot of basements that have been flooding with water that never has been in their basements before! Our club has been working overtime this summer with our weather nets. Seems like we have one about every other night feeding valuable information to the St. Louis weather service, so that they know what is in the clouds that their radar is seeing, so that they can put out warnings and advisories.

The Hannibal Amateur Radio Club is having a bar b que August 2, 2008 and will be serving food at 5:00 pm. The club will be bar b queuing boneless butterflied, pork chops, hamburgers, and hot dogs. The club will furnish buns and water and tea. Bring your table settings, and a hungry appetite!

The week of August 21, 2008 thru August 25 the Hannibal Amateur Radio Club will be running the radio room on the World War II LST 325 Landing Craft. This ship has seen much action in World War II in the African and European theaters carrying Tanks, trucks, jeep, artillery and supplies. Without these ships in World War II the Allied Forces wouldn't have won the war. This will, for most people, be a once in a lifetime

chance to participate in a special event of this caliber. If you would like to participate in this event contact J.D. W0AJD, and he will get you worked in the operating schedule.

Our 146.625 repeater took another lightning strike, and burned out our controller that we have on it. Thanks to our repeater Tech. Fred KB0WIL, he got the problem figured out, and had it sent in and fixed once again. I can't say enough about all the time and effort that Fred puts out for the club. He is my "Get R Done" Guy. If I put Fred onto anything he attacks it with vigor and gets the mission accomplished. Fred from the club I would like to say a big thank you.

Another person that I want to say a big Thank you to is Bonnie WB0WAP, for getting our newspaper in a timely manner out to all the members even though she has to wait sometimes on the president to get his article in. Sorry Bonnie. Bonnie's newsletter will rival the best of papers that is put out in the U.S. Your work is outstanding and very professional. Thanks Bonnie!!

Well Bonnie is waiting on me to get this article emailed to her so I had better shut up and get this emailed to her. So I hope to see everyone at the upcoming events. Remember, A RADIO CLUB IS ONLY AS GOOD AS YOU MAKE IT. GET IN THERE AND PARTICIPATE!!!!

73 s Howard



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**Around the World**



## **DX & Computer Horizons August 2008 by Cliff Ahrens K0CA**

As the temperature outside creeps up to the 100 degree mark, and the solar flux slips to near record lows, the month of August may show the true meaning of the "dog days of summer." But despite the low sunspots and bad DX conditions, DX can be found on the bands. Lots of stations are planning to be there for the deserving this month. Let's all tune the bands, and have some fun searching for some of the following stations who plan to be on in August.

4W TIMOR-LESTE. Mike, PA5M, is operating as 4W6AAB until sometime in August. QSL via PA7FM.

9A, CROATIA. Zik VE3ZIK plans to be active from Croatia using the callsign 9A/VE3ZIK from July 23 to August 23. QSL via DO7ZZ.

OD LEBANON. Look for a special event operation from Lebanon signing OD5ARZ on August 2nd and 3rd. QSL via K3IRV. For more information, see <http://ral.org.lb>.

D4 CAPE VERDE ISL. Luca, IK2NCJ plans to be on the air from the D4C contest station from August 6 to 18. QSL via IZ4DPV.

ZD8 ASCENSION ISL. Bob VP8LP will be signing ZD8LP from Ascension Island from about August 15 until mid-September. QSL via VP8LP.



5Z KENYA. 5z4ES and 5z4/IK8VRH plan to operate from two separate IOTAs in Kenya from August 15-17 and August 20-22.

EA6 BALEARIC ISL. Andre LX1FX says he will operate from July 22 through August 15, and possibly longer, on HF and VHF.

VK9Y COCOS-KEELING ISL. John I5JHW plans to be on the air from August 22 to 29 using the call VK9CJW. QSL via I5JHW.

JW SVALBARD. JW/OZ8KR plans to operate from Svalbard August 12-13 and again August 16-17. QSL via OZ8KR.

9G GHANA. Look for DL5XX signing 9G5MM from Ghana from mid-July until August 10. For more information, see: <http://www.rrdx.eu/9g5mm>. QSL via DL5XX.

For those of you running Vista as your computer's operating system, Alex KR1ST has released a new version of his free Spotter gadget which will interact with the new DX Summit web site. As I mentioned in an earlier column, it's a neat gadget to have on your Vista desktop, so that incoming spots are always at your fingertip. Download it at: <http://www.kr1st.com/spotter.htm>.

Thanks to the ARRL DX Bulletin, the Daily DX and the Ohio/Penn DX bulletin for some of the information in this month's column.

73 and good DX, Cliff K0CA

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Here's a photo of ARRL President Joel Harrison W5ZN presenting Cliff, K0CA, his DXCC Challenge 2500 Medallion during the ARRL Board meeting this weekend in Newington, CT. Cliff's DXCC Challenge total is 2501.

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#### HARC MONDAY NIGHT NET CALL LIST, AUG 2008

4	N9UPG	BILL
11	W0PGL	TONY
18	K0DFW	HOWARD
25	W0AJD	JD

**Thanks to all of you who do this!!**

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#### SOS DISTRESS CALL

July 1st, was the 100th anniversary of the SOS distress call, recognized all over the world. Here's my piece to mark the anniversary.

A common misconception is that 'SOS' stands for something: popular choices being: "Save Our Ship," "Save Our Souls", "Survivors On Ship," or "Save Our Sailors".

But the letters have no meaning in themselves- **'SOS' is just three dots, three dashes, three dots in Morse Code-** a simple, and easily recognizable message which became the internationally recognized distress signal for ships at sea exactly one hundred years ago this week.

The letters 'SOS' have, over the past century, become firmly established in popular culture. The rock group The Police sang about sending an 'SOS'

to the world' in their hit 'Message in a Bottle'. ABBA's 'SOS' also got to number one, while Rihanna's 'SOS-Rescue Me' was a huge international hit in 2006.

SOS is recognized as a distress signal not just at sea, but anywhere where people find themselves in danger. Three short, three long and three short signals, transmitted by flashlights, has been used by those stranded in mountainous area at night. And people lost in the wilderness have used rocks and other objects to spell out 'SOS' to attract the attention of aircraft. 'Sending out an SOS signal' has become the parlance for anyone who sends out a signal for help-whether or not Morse Code is used- like the American hiker who earlier this month was rescued from a German mountain after waving and throwing her bra to attract attention.

The story of SOS begins in the late 19th century. Before the advent of radio telegraphy, ships in distress had to rely on the likes of semaphore flags, signal flares, bells, and foghorns to attract the attention of would-be rescuers. But around the end of the 19th century, sea-going vessels began to be fitted with radios. Ship radios back then did not involve vocal communication, but the use of Morse Code- a system of communication developed in the US in the 1840s.

The first ship to send out a Morse Code radio distress signal was the East Goodwin lightship, when the merchant ship 'Elbe' ran aground in Kent in March 1899. The lightship radioed the nearby lighthouse, which then summoned the aid of lifeboat to rescue the ship's crew. Ironically, only a month later the East Goodwin lightship became the first vessel to send a radio signal of its own distress when it was rammed by another ship.

The problem was that different ships used different messages to say they were in distress, often leading to confusion. Some ships transmitted 'Help', while others used messages in their own language- not much use if in danger off the coast of another country. There was an urgent need for an internationally agreed standardized distress signal and the first one to be adopted was 'CQD' - devised by Britain's Marconi Corporation in 1904. But although this was a major step forward, there were still problems. 'CQD' was supposed to mean 'All Stations-Urgent', but it was regularly mistaken for 'Come quick- danger'. And if the final 'D' was not heard, then the signal would be interpreted as the

non-urgent "calling anyone".

Something simpler- and less open to misinterpretation was needed and the solution was found in Germany.

The Germans had originally used the distress signal 'SOE'. But it was felt that the three 'dots' of an 'S' in Morse Code were easier to hear in static than the one dot of an 'E', so the final letter was substituted.

The real beauty of 'SOS' was its simplicity: dot-dot-dot-dash-dash-dash-dot-dot-dot in Morse Code was far less likely to be misinterpreted than the more complex dash-dot-dash-dot, dash-dash-dot-dash, dash-dot-dot of 'CQD'. And it could be sent far more quickly- and with less chance of the radio operator making a mistake. For these reasons 'SOS' was officially adopted as the international distress signal at the second International Radiotelegraphic Convention in 1906- to come into effect on 1st July 1908.

It wasn't long before the new signal was saving lives. In June 1909, a Cunard liner, the SS Slavonia, was wrecked off the Azores. The ship used the 'SOS' signal, which was received by two steamships who promptly went to the rescue. Not a single life was lost.

Although the use of 'SOS' had been officially ratified in 1908, 'CQD' lingered for several more years, especially on British ships. When the Titanic struck an iceberg off Newfoundland, in April 1912, the ship first used 'CQD' to call for help. Later 'CQD' was interspersed with 'SOS', at the suggestion of the ship's second radio operator Harold Bride. "Send SOS; it's the new call, and this may be your last chance to send it." Bride told the ship's first radio operator, Jack Phillips. Bride's words were indeed prophetic, as Phillips, along with over 1500 others, perished in the disaster.

The sinking of the Titanic marked the end of the use of 'CQD': from now on SOS was universally used as the international distress signal. Even America, initially reluctant to adopt international radio standards, officially adopted SOS in 1912.

During the First World War, when Allied ships faced the peril of being sunk by German U-Boats in the Atlantic- the SOS signal came into its own.

Sometimes though, fate transpired to hinder a

successful rescue. In May 1915, the ocean liner RMS Lusitania was torpedoed by a U-Boat just eight miles off the coast of Ireland. The ship immediately sent out an SOS, but because of a violent second explosion, the exact cause of which still remains a mystery to this day- it sank within 18 minutes- causing the deaths of 1,198 people.

In the Second World War, signals to augment SOS were devised. SOS followed by 'SSS' meant that the ship had been attacked by submarines; 'AAA' meant an attack by an aircraft, while QQQ meant attack by an unknown raider.

Today, there are now many other means of communicating that a ship is distress which don't rely on Morse Code- such as the use of VHF radio, digital selective calling and even mobile phone calls to rescue services.

SOS messages can also be sent into space. In the 1970s the Soviet Union developed a satellite system (Kospas) which could receive distress signals from ships on earth. A similar American-French-Canadian system called Search and Rescue Satellite -Aided Tracking, (Sarsat), was also set up and in 1979 the two systems were joined together with the first satellite being launched three years later. The quick location of ships by satellite technology has reduced the time it takes to rescue stricken vessels, helping to save even more lives. It's all a far cry from the early days of radio telegraphy. Today, there are now many other means of communicating that a ship is distress which don't rely on Morse Code- such as the use of VHF radio, digital selective calling and even mobile phone calls to rescue services. But SOS is still the signal of distress that the whole world recognizes.

(Posted by Neil Clark, on: Wikipedia) 7-1-08

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### **WWII LST 325 SPECIAL EVENT - KØS**



See the website for the story of this fantastic ship. <http://www.lstmemorial.org/>

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The LST 325 ship will be docking on the Hannibal Riverfront the August 20-26, and we are having a special event on the ship. We will be operating on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday between the hours of 9am to 5 pm. This will be an exciting and interesting event. Probably, once in a lifetime experience. KØS will be our special event call sign. Shelly Shannon, wife of Larry, WA6JMR has designed an especially impressive certificate for this event. Thanks, Shelly!

Your operation times will be at various schedules, so be sure to get your name on the list. Operators are being signed up now, so if you want to operate in this special event, be sure to get hold of J.D., WØAJD, 573-221-2937 or email at [sinclair@rallstech.com](mailto:sinclair@rallstech.com) or, call on the 625 machine to get your name on the list. The radio operation equipment will be set up by the HARC of Hannibal, MO. You do not have to be a member of the Hannibal Amateur Radio Club to schedule a listed time. However, you do have to be a current licensed Ham operator. You must be scheduled prior to the event to get free access to the ships radio room. Times and spaces are limited, so work with us, and it will be one of your special Amateur Radio events of the year.

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**HANNIBAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
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